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**THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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8 October 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Charles E. Waterman, NIO/NESA

SUBJECT: 7 October Meeting of Lebanon Steering Group

1. The purpose of this meeting was to hear the views of Phil Habib on the evolving Lebanese situation, and to discuss security and reconstruction issues.

2. Habib made the following points:

- There are essentially two sets of Lebanese problems: Lebanese government structural issues, and withdrawal of foreign forces.
- On withdrawals, all foreign parties more or less agree in principle. Hence, the immediate problem is that of the mechanics of bringing it about.
- The logical solution to withdrawal is a simultaneous scenario. For a variety of reasons, this is impractical to both Syrians and Israelis. Hence, a two-stage phased arrangement is the only serious practicality. For this to work, a "pre-cooked" final solution must be understood and agreed upon by all concerned before the first state of disengagement is agreed upon.
- In a two-phased scenario, Habib envisages probable deployment of an MNF, with or without US participation, roughly along the Beirut-Damascus road. Under any scenario, there will probably be a need for an MNF or UNIFIL after total withdrawal.
- Habib sees the optimum size of the Lebanese army as roughly 80,000 with a high degree of mobility. At least 1 year minimum will be required to attain this goal. He spoke positively about Amin Jumayyil, the consensus that has formed around him, and political will that he is now displaying.

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-- Habib would clearly like US forces to be permitted a more forward leaning role, but is resigned to their current disposition and conservative rules of engagement. In his terms, "all parties know we're chicken, and accept the problem."

3. The intelligence community assessment prepared for Ambassador Draper on the likely ultimate results of phased withdrawal is considerably more bearish about the implications of phased withdrawal. If true, the MNF should not be linked to total success, and a mechanism for earlier MNF withdrawal evolved. This assessment is attached.



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Charles E. Waterman

Attachment:  
Assessment

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